

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORNITHOLOGY OF THE PAPUAN ISLANDS.

By THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCILD AND ERNST HARTERT.

(Unless signed otherwise, the work of these "contributions" is so divided that Walter Rothschild works out the families *Paradisæidae*, *Ptilonorhynchidae*, and *Rallidae*, while E. Hartert is responsible for the rest.)

## VI.\*

ON SOME SKINS COLLECTED FROM APRIL TO JUNE ON  
MOUNT VICTORIA, OWEN STANLEY MOUNTAINS, MOSTLY AT  
ELEVATIONS OF FROM 5000 TO 7000 FEET.

1-9. Of true *Paradisæidae* the collection contained specimens of the following species:—

*Craspedophora intercedens*, *Lophorina minor*, *Epimachus meyeri*, *Parotia lawersi*, *Paradisæa raggiana*, *P. rudolphi*, *Sclaucides nigricans*, *Cicinnurus regius*,  
*Diphyllodes hünsteini*. W. R.

### 10. *Loria lorise* Salvad. (*antea*, p. 252).

Adult *male* and immature *male* from Mount Victoria. The immature *male* has the abdomen, back, and wings mixed with greenish feathers, showing that the young *male* is, in colour, similar to the adult *female*. The wing of the *male* measures 100 mm. W. R.

### 11. *Cnemophilus macgregorii* de Vis.

Only one adult *male* of this magnificent bird has hitherto been known. It was well described by Mr. de Vis and beautifully figured in the *Ibis*. The present collection contains one adult *male*, wing 106 mm., and a specimen which is evidently an immature *male*. It is olive above, tinged and mixed with pale brownish yellow. Quills with the outer webs pale rufous brown, the inner webs dusky brown, each wing having a few fresh feathers like those of the adult *male*. The tail has a few fresh feathers which are like those of the old *male*, while the rest is dark brown. Underparts black, mixed with yellowish olive feathers on the abdomen, and still more on the throat. The peculiar crest on the forehead is already developed, and has the same beautiful golden sheen in a certain light which is visible in the old *male*. W. R.

### 12. *Amblyornis inornata* (Schleg.).

Two *males* with crests and two specimens without crests, evidently young *males*, for they differ from *females* from Arfak in having the feathers of the crown and occiput much longer and narrower, and the under wing-coverts of a deeper orange. Undoubted *females* of this form, which I consider identical with *A. inornata* from Arfak (see *antea*, pp. 11-13), are not yet recorded. W. R.

\* For Nos. I., II., III. see *antea*, pp. 8-20; for Nos. IV., V., pp. 233-255.

13. *Aeluroedus melanocephalus* Rams.

Wing 155 mm.

W. R.

14. *Amalocichla sclateriana* de Vis.

A skin of this remarkable Timeline form, well agreeing with de Vis' description in the Annual Report on British New Guinea, 1892, p. 95, except that the upper tail-coverts are of the same rufous brown colour as the back, and the under tail-coverts are buff with slaty bases, while de Vis says, "Upper and under tail-coverts rufous." This curious bird reminds one very much of the South American *Grallariæ*.

E. H.

15. *Eupetes leucostictus* Sel.

Two skins from Mount Victoria, not differing materially from a skin from Arfak, though more material is necessary to judge finally of their identity. E. H.

16. *Melirrhophetes belfordi* de Vis.

Two skins from Mount Victoria. They are in every respect entirely similar to the *male* mentioned *antea*, p. 16, and another *male* from the Oriori District, except that the broad malar stripes and the feathers above the eye are not so white, but rather buff. One of them, no doubt a *female*, is much smaller: the wing, which measures from 147 to 151 mm. in the *males*, measuring only 126 mm. E. H.

17. *Melirrhophetes ochromelas batesi* (Sharpe).

The differences between this form and *M. ochrom. typ.* are very slight indeed and hardly worthy of a name. See *antea*, p. 16. E. H.

18. *Melilestes megarhynchus* (G. R. Gray).

One skin in moult, showing the remainder of the immature whitish and dark striped plumage on the chin and along the middle of the breast and abdomen. E. H.

19. *Ptilotis polygramma* Gray.

One adult skin.

E. H.

20. *Ptilotis salvadorii* sp. nov.

Closely allied to *Pt. subfrenata* Salvad. from the Arfak Mountains, but evidently distinct, having no grey forehead, the colour above being the same from the base of the culmen to the back. Above blackish brown, with olive edges to the feathers; browner and paler on the rump. Behind the eye a large bare spot, followed by a large black patch which extends down the neck. From the preocular region to the ear-coverts a golden yellow line of hair-like feathers. Beyond the eyes some white feathers with black tips. Wings deep brown, outwardly edged with yellowish olive-green, inwardly with pale cinnamon. Tail deep brown, with greenish outer edges. Chin blackish brown. Underparts dingy greyish brown, with an olive-greenish wash. Feathers of abdomen with some pale buff tips. Thighs and under tail-coverts greyish brown, with buff edges. Under wing-coverts; paler cinnamon. Total length about 175 to 185 mm.; wing 93 to 98; tail 85 to 95;

culmen 25 to 26 ; tarsus 23 to 25 mm. Two specimens, quite alike in colour, but one larger, probably *male* and *female*. Although I have not seen *P. subfrenata* I have no doubt, from Salvadori's descriptions, that this form is different. It is named in honour of the author of the immortal *Ornithologia Papuaia*. E. H.

#### 21. *Melipotes fumigatus* A. B. Meyer.

1886. *M. fumigatus* A. B. Meyer in *Zeitschr. f. ges. Ornith.* III. p. 22. t. IV. fig. 1.

1895. *M. atriceps* Grant in *Bull. B. O. C.* No. XXXI.

A skin of this rare bird agrees perfectly with the type of *M. atriceps* in the British Museum, but I find that it has been described long ago as *M. fumigatus*. E. H.

#### 22. *Pachycephala schlegeli obscurior* Hartert.

Two skins confirming my observations made on p. 15 of this volume. It may be added that the colour above is slightly darker, but that the size of the black spot on the chin is apparently not quite constant. E. H.

#### 23. *Graucalus longicauda* de Vis.

One skin of this rare bird, which is a very good species. It is described in the "Report on Birds from British New Guinea," dated August 23rd, 1889, forming part of the Governor's Annual Official Reports. The head and neck are of a glossy purplish black, the tail and wings black with a very slight gloss. There is a brownish wash on the sides of the body and here and there on the back, but this is probably due to nonage. The under tail-coverts are darker and more ashy than the grey breast, abdomen, back, and upper wing-coverts. Wing 175 ; tail 165 mm. Sex not known. E. H.

#### 24. *Campochaera sloetii* (Schleg.).

One specimen, well agreeing with the descriptions of the *female*. E. H.

#### 25. *Melopitta lugubris* (Rosenb.).

One skin. The breast and abdomen with many irregular patches of rusty brown feathers, also the hind-neck and hinder part of the crown with dark brown feathers, which are evidently the remainder of the plumage of the young bird. Besides these I cannot see differences from *M. lugubris* from Arfak. E. H.

#### 26. *Aegotheles rufescens* Salvad.

Of this species, which has been described by Salvadori in *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova*, XXXVI. p. 71, from a single skin from the Moroka District, this collection contained one specimen, which seems to be somewhat immature. This species does not stand very far from *A. albertisi*. More material is very much wanted to better understand the species of this genus. E. H.

#### 27. *Glossoptilus goldiei* Salvad.

A beautiful *male*. Wing 108 mm. E. H.

#### 28. *Psittacella brehmi pallida* A. B. Meyer.

See *antea*, pp. 18, 255.

29. *Psittacella picta* Rothsch.

See *Bull. B. O. Club* for October 1896. The species will be figured in the *Ibis* for January 1897.

30. *Neopsittacus musschenbroeki* Schleg.

A fine *male* from Mount Victoria. It is very interesting to see that this species occurs together with the following species. E. H.

31. *Neopsittacus pullicauda* Hartert.

Several skins confirm the correctness of my former observations (see *antea*, p. 17). This species differs from *N. musschenbroeki* in having the hinder part of the crown, occiput, and nape darker (nearly green), the tail below dark olive-green, instead of orange, the red colour on the abdomen more extended towards the sides of the body. The occurrence of both *N. musschenbroeki* and *N. pullicauda* on the same mountain seems to forbid to look upon the latter as merely a subspecies, though it may be that they inhabit different elevations. E. H.

32. *Ninox dimorpha* (Salvad.).

A skin which agrees in every detail with Salvadori's descriptions and with a skin from Dutch New Guinea. E. H.

33. *Falco severus* Horst. (an subsp.?).

An adult, or at least fairly old bird, and a young one with large longitudinal spots below. Messrs. Meyer & Wiglesworth have (in *Abh. und Ber. Mus. Dresden*, 1892-93, No. 3, p. 6) separated the New Guinea birds of this species as *F. severus papuanus* (see *antea*, p. 256). It seems to be doubtful whether that form can be npheld. The wing and tail are said to be uniform below; this, however, is a sign of greater age, and our Philippine skins are uniform on these parts, while our New Guinea ones are not. Skins from the Philippines are darker below, and just as dark above as the New Guinea skins. The young New Guinea bird is very distinctly barred on the wings and tail. The only difference between specimens from New Guinea and from other places I can see is a slightly darker colour of the tail above. E. H.

34. *Rallicula forbesi* Sharpe.

Three skins. One immature, with the top of the head darker, the feathers of the back and upper wing-coverts with small buff spots near the tips of both webs. W. R.

The two following birds were collected west of Port Moresby:—

1. *Seleucidés nigricans* (Shaw).

Evidently common about sixty miles inland from Port Chalmers, west of Port Moresby. In the old *male* everything below the breast-shield is orange-yellow, there being no white colour on the bird at all. This seems to be a lowland species. W. R.

2. *Henicopernis longicauda* (Garn.).

Popo inlet, west of Port Moresby. "Iris yellow."

E. H.

## VII.

LIST OF A COLLECTION OF BIRDSKINS MADE IN THE ARU  
ISLANDS BY CAPTAIN CAYLEY WEBSTER  
FROM MAY TO JULY 1896.

1. *Paradisea apoda* L. One female. "Iris pale yellow."—2. *Aclorordas melanotis* Gray.—3. *Circinnurus regius* (L.). The Aruskins do not differ perceptibly from those of other countries, though on the whole the wing is a few millimetres longer. (W.R.)—4. *Manucodia atru* (Less.).—5. *Macrocorax fuscicapillus* (Gray).—6. *Mino dumonti* Less. White bar in the wing rather narrow.—7. *Oriolus flarocinctus* (King).—8. *Dicruropsis carbonaria* (Müll.). Wing 147 mm.—9. *Graucalus caeruleogriseus* (Gray).—10. *Graucalus melanops* (Lath.).—11. *Artamus leucogaster* (Valenc.). Two specimens with remarkably short wings!—12. *Cracticus quoyi* (Less.).—13. *Cracticus rassicus*.

14. *Rhectes analogus* A. B. Meyer, or *R. aruensis* Sharpe.

In *Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn.* I. p. 285 (1884) Dr. A. B. Meyer separated some Aru specimens from *R. analogus* under the name of *R. aruensis*. The skin before us seems to agree with Meyer's birds, but Dr. R. B. Sharpe in *Ibis*, 1888, p. 437, declares that Meyer's *R. analogus* is only the young of his *R. aruensis*. See also Salvadori, *Agg. Orn. Papuasien*, II. p. 97 (1890). E. H.

15. *Rhectes ferrugineus brevipennis* subsp. nov.

Aru specimens have the wing very short, only 128 mm. All individuals of our very large series from New Guinea have the wings decidedly longer. A. B. Meyer, in *Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn.* I. p. 285 (1884), had already pointed out this difference, and it is only on account of his corroboration of our observation that we dare to bestow a subspecific term on this form. E. H.

16. *Philemon novaeguineae aruensis* A. B. Meyer.

Four skins from Dobbo, unfortunately not sexed. One of these, probably an old male, has a very long bill and a very high hump. These four birds have the bill 46, 46, 48, and 53 mm. long: their height at hump is 18, 19, 20, and 24 mm. Three specimens of *Ph. novaeguineae subtaberosus* (antea, p. 238) have the bill 43, 45, 45 mm. long, and their height at hump is 14, 15, 17 mm. E. H.

17. *Pitta novaeguineae* Müll. & Schleg.—18. *Macropteryx mystacea* (Temm.). Wings 222—224 mm.—19. *Podargus ocellatus* Q. & G.—20. *Eurystomus australis* Sw.—21. *Tangiptera hydrocharis* Gray.—22. *Huleyon sordidus* Gould. The loreal spot cannot be called pure white, but has a distinct though faint buffy tinge. Wing 116 mm. See *antea*, p. 244.

23. *Syma torotoro tentelare* subsp. nov.

Females from Aru have the black spot on the head in or behind the middle of the crown about 15 mm. or more away from the base of the bill, while in specimens from Northern Dutch New Guinea this spot is generally larger and extends almost

or quite to the base of the culmen. The *males* of the Aru form do not differ perceptibly from *S. torotoro typica*.

Specimens from Fergusson Island are rather dark below, but a young individual from Waigiu is similar in this respect. In one of the Fergusson *females* the head-spot is placed more backwards than usual, and thus it seems somewhat to point towards the Aru subspecies. According to Salvadori (*Orn. Papuaia*, I, p. 485) *females* from Naiabui in S.E. New Guinea resemble those of Aru, and therefore most likely belong to the same subspecies. Another species has been recently described as *S. megarhyncha* by Salvadori from the Owen Stanley Mountains.

The last form of the genus *Syma* is called *S. flavirostris* and inhabits North Queensland. In the *Catalogue of Birds*, Vol. XVII, p. 197, it is said to differ from *S. torotoro* in wanting the black mark along the tip of the culmen—and this statement has been made before. However, it is quite wrong, the fully adult *S. torotoro* never having any black mark on the culmen, a character peculiar to immature birds of *S. torotoro* only. On the other hand, I have not yet seen a *Syma flavirostris* quite without a black mark, and I believe that even the most adult birds have it. In any case it is a bad character for distinguishing these species, the much lighter and more greenish colour of the upper parts being the best distinguishing character of the Queensland form. The subspecific name proposed above is the native name of the bird in Aru, as *Torotoro* is its name in Dorey. E. H.

#### 24. *Sauromarptis gaudichaud* (Q. & G.).

No distinction from typical skins of New Guinea. There is certainly not more white on the back; on the contrary, some of our birds from New Guinea (we have now thirty-six without duplicates) show *more* white on the back. The blue of the rump of most of our Aru birds is rather dark, while it is certainly paler in most of the skins from S.E. New Guinea, but not constantly. The so-called *Sauromarptis kubaryi* seems to differ in *no way* from *S. gaudichaud typica*.

W. R. & E. H.

25. *Sauromarptis tyro* (Gray).—26. *Microglossus aterrimus* (Gm.). Wing only 330 mm.—27. *Cyclopsittacus aruensis* (Schleg.).—28. *Trichoglossus nigrogularis* Gray. Large and fine birds; wings 150, 152, 153 mm.

#### 29. *Chalcopsittacus scintillatus* (Temm.).

The majority of the Aru specimens have the breast more washed with brown and have very dark orange stripes along the shafts of the feathers on the breast as well as on the hind-neck, but the British Museum possesses specimens from New Guinea that are just like our Aru skins. The plumage of the sexes and different ages of this bird are not yet properly known. Some birds (? *females*) have the rump distinctly bluish, some have no orange stripes at all.

W. R. & E. H.

#### 30. *Eclectus pectoralis aruensis* (Gray).

Specimens from the Aru Islands have the tail in both sexes very prominently tipped with yellow. I do not find this so much in any other specimens from other

localities. The Aru Island birds are also rather large (♂ wing 263—269'), and I believe they can stand as a subspecies. Cf. Gray, *P. Z. S.* 1858, p. 182; Salvadori, *Orn. Papuas*, I. p. 201.

Specimens from the Solomon Islands seem smallest of all, next coming those from Fergusson, New Ireland, and New Britain. E. H.

31. *Ptilopus aurantiifrons* Gray.—32. *Pt. wallacei* Gray.—33. *Pt. superbus* (Temm. & Knip).—34. *Pt. iozonus* Gray. "Iris yellow."—35. *Pt. coronulatus* Gray. "Iris orange."—36. *Myristicivora bicolor* (Scop.).—37. *Carpophaga zoeae* (Less.). "Iris straw-colour."—38. *C. pinon* (Q. & G.). "Iris red; feet coral-red; bill greyish; naked space round eye red."—39. *Chalcophaps stephani* Rehb. Hitherto, I believe, only doubtfully known from the Aru Islands. E. H.

#### 40. *Macropygia* sp.

There are before us four skins of a *Macropygia* from Dobbo and Wannambai. According to Salvadori's Catalogue of the Pigeons in the British Museum they would belong to *M. doreya* Bp., and Salvadori has identified the Aru specimens that came before him with the latter species. To us they seem to agree much better with *M. batchianensis*, and to be merely a form of that species with a less rufous chin and longer wings. The wings of the adult *males* measure 173—175 mm. From all we can see at present we must conclude that our Aru specimens differ from *M. doreya typica* and that they are nearer to *M. batchianensis*; further that *M. doreya*, *M. cinereiceps*, *M. griseinucha*, *M. batchianensis*, and *M. goldiei* are more or less connected by intermediate specimens and merely subspecies of one and the same species, but that a large material with exact localities will be necessary before one can come to definite conclusions about them.

W. R. & E. H.

41. *Baza reinwardti* Müll. & Schleg.—42. *Haliastur girrenera* Vieill.—43. *Nycticorax caledonicus* (Gm.).

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